

BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report and Tabular Statistics for 1908.

(ABBREVIATED).

Table 1.

BIRTHS and DEATHS.

YEAR.	Population.	Births.		Deaths under 1 year old.		Total Deaths.	
		No.	Rate per 1000 of Population.	No.	Rate per 1000 of Births.	No.	Rate per 1000 of Population.
1898	4618	130	28.1	15	3.24	60	12.99
1899	"	139	30.0	16	3.46	75	16.2
1900	"	108	23.3	11	2.38	63	13.64
1901	5074	122	24.2	9	1.7	66	13.0
1902	"	129	25.4	14	2.7	72	14.1
1903	"	130	25.6	10	1.9	62	12.2
1904	"	131	25.8	8	1.5	55	10.8
1905	"	117	23.05	6	1.18	41	8.08
1906	"	128	25.22	9	1.77	71	13.99
1907	"	116	22.86	14	2.7	75	14.75
Average of foregoing		125	25.0	11.2	1.7	64	12.5
1908	5074	118	23.25	5	9.8	57	11.23

There were 4 deaths of Borough persons in the Rural District, viz.: in the Union Workhouse and at the Isolation Hospital, and the number of deaths 57 includes 9 cases of death at the Cottage Hospital of which 4 did not belong to the Borough,

Making the Total Figures attributable to the District ...

57

11.23

Number of Inhabited Houses in Borough--1901 Census ... 1185, now estimated at 1270

Average Number of Persons per House ... 4.3 " 3.9

Table 2 does not apply to Chippenham.

Table 3.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

		No.	Sent to Isolation Hospital.
Diphtheria	...	24	18
Erysipelas	...	5	...
Scarlet Fever	...	1	1
Enteric Fever	...	2	2
Puerperal Fever	...	1	...
Totals	...	33	21

Table 4.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH.

CAUSE.	Total No.	Ages.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 or above
Whooping Cough	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria or Membraneous Croup	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever (died at Cottage Hospital)	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis	3	...	...	...	1	2	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	...	2	...	1	1	...
Cancer	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	2	1	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (died at Cottage Hospital)	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Premature Birth	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Disease	8	...	...	...	...	4	4
Accidents	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
All other causes (7 at Cottage Hospital)	28	1	2	1	...	8	16
Total	57	5	4	3	2	19	24

Table 5. INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Premature Births, 2 viz. 2 Deaths in first week

Whooping Cough I " in 3rd month

Bronchitis I " in 3rd month

Laringitis I " in 11th month

Legitimate Births 117 Deaths 5
Illegitimate I nil

BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM,

Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1908.

GENTLEMEN,

The Tables I have just read to you are so complete in the information they give that little is left for me to discourse upon. In Table 3, cases notified, the patients resided in different parts of the Town, locality did not seem to influence disease in any instance.

Through the Town runs a bend of the River Avon entering at the South East, looping round on the North, and passing out at the South. The Eastern half of the River bend is at a higher level than the Western half, being kept up 6 or 8 feet by a Mill and Weir near the Town Bridge. Most of the new Houses have been erected on the North side of the River. Into the Southern portion of the Town runs a branch of the Wilts and Berks Canal at a higher level than the River and not communicating with it, the Canal is now little used. The Town lies in a Valley, having higher ground on every side, still, almost everywhere it stands well above the river level and has well marked regular slopes towards each part of the stream.

The soil of the Town is corn brash, to the South East and West of the Town this corn brash is covered in many parts with a considerable depth by Oxford Clay.

Industries—The principal Industries are, in the Southern portion, a large Milk Factory, a Cloth Factory, and in the Northern portion a large Iron Works, Bacon Curing Company, and a smaller Iron Works, none of these works or occupations influence the public health.

The increased population within the past ten years has demanded an increase in house accommodation for working class people, private enterprise has resulted in the building of a large number of new Houses, and these have been supplemented by a private company who build a large number of good class artizan dwellings just without the Urban District; these new Streets are all 36 feet wide.

The Urban Houses are inspected by your Surveyor before occupation, the plans being submitted to you before erection. There is now little difficulty for a family to obtain a sufficiently large house provided they can pay the rent.

Water Supply—This is derived from a well the property of the Authority, the quality as shown by Analysis taken from time to time is excellent and the quantity is abundant. It is distributed over the whole district in pipes and is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Milk Supply—This part of Wiltshire being a great dairy district it is not surprising that we find here excellent and abundant milk on sale. There are 9 Milksellers registered—the milk is in almost all cases brought into the Town in cans from the various farms. These Farms, as well as the Milk Shops themselves, are inspected by your Medical Officer. They were found with two exceptions to be in good order. No imported milk is used.

Other Foods—There is an excellent supply of first quality butchers meat to be found in this Town. There is also good foreign meat sold, wholesome in quality. Your Officers, aided by the police, do all in their power to prevent the flesh of diseased animals being sold. The meat and fish sold in the Market Place is frequently inspected by myself and the slaughter houses are also inspected. No legal proceedings have been taken nor were they needed.

Sewerage—An extensive system of sewerage on approved methods have been in use for some three years now throughout the whole Town, these works are giving satisfaction and producing a good effluent. The outfall and tanks are under the care of an expert workman acting under the advice and instruction of your Surveyor (Mr. Adams). There have been complaints of smells from these tanks which have been dealt with as far as was possible at the time. It is intended that the whole of the sewerage of the Town shall ultimately reach this sewerage system.

The Surveyor has prepared a plan for providing new sewers to replace drock drains and other old sewers, of which there are many as one may imagine in so ancient a borough, and it is the intention of your Council to execute this plan in sections so that all future work will be done in a systematic manner. During this year sections (195 yards long) have been completed in High Street, Timber Street, and the Causeway.

Pollution of River—The object of the Sewerage scheme is to prevent the pollution of the River by the entrance of untreated sewage into it, and when all the old drains are caught up and connected with this system, as the Council intend by the work now in progress in sections, there will be no pollution, indeed at the present moment the amount of untreated sewage entering the river is very small.

House Refuse and Scavenging—This work is carried out by your Council, refuse being removed 3 times a week from all parts of the Town.

Nuisances—In company with your Inspector, inspections were made of the Town, special attention being devoted to the Courts and yards, all of which, save one, are paved with impervious material. As a result of our inspection over 60 nuisances were discovered, which have been dealt with by Mr. Adams.

Lodging Houses—There are two Lodging Houses registered, these have been inspected by me.

Offensive Trades—There are no offensive trades carried on in this Town.

The Public Elementary Schools have been inspected, the Sanitary condition and Water Supply of the Schools were found to be satisfactory.

During the last year I have attended your Committee Meetings and reported the Zymotic cases notified during the preceding month.

Special inspections were also made at the homes or districts where epidemic disease was present or had been present, and as a result several unhealthy conditions were removed. Printed instructions for disinfection were distributed at every house where infectious disease was present, and on the removal of the patient to the Isolation Hospital, or the recovery of the patient, the rooms were fumigated by your Surveyor.

Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis—A recent Order of the Local Government Board compels District Medical Officers to notify cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis among poor persons under their care, this order came into force on January 1st I expect, the order foreshadows a general notification of all cases of consumption.

Midwives Act—My attention has not been called to any breach of the rules governing midwives working in your district.

Infant Mortality—The number of deaths, among infants under one year old, does not call for comment from me. I have distributed to mothers a small number of Pamphlets giving advice upon the feeding and management of children which I think have been of use.

Medical Inspection of School Children—In reference to the memorandum on Medical Inspection of children in Elementary Schools, I have been appointed to examine the children in one school in your district. I am also conversant with the details found by the examiners in the other 2 Schools, I have not material enough this year before me to report upon. My relations with the Local and County Education Authority are cordial and intimate.

The Isolation Hospital—This Hospital was in use most months of the year. During the time it was closed, the interval was utilized for a general clean up, thorough disinfection and the carrying out of some necessary repairs. Last year I reported to the Joint Committee that the wards for the treatment of Diphtheria were not at all times sufficiently large for the number of patients seeking admission and steps are now being taken to improve and increase the accommodation. Fifty patients have been admitted during the year, and of these 21 came from the Urban District viz:- 1 case of Scarlatina, 18 of Diphtheria and 2 Enteric, whilst 29 cases came from the Rural District, viz:- Scarlatina 7 and Diphtheria 22. Nurse Warren is still acting as Matron, she continues to enjoy the entire confidence of those working for and with her. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking those who kindly sent toys, books, illustrated papers, and childrens' clothes to the Hospital, all are much appreciated, childrens' clothes are most useful, the Matron is often sadly perplexed to find warm garments for the little ones when they are about to leave this warm ward for their draughty cottage home.

Infectious Disease—In your district upon the receipt of a notification either of Scarlatina or Diphtheria (if the friends of the patient are willing) the case is removed in an ambulance in charge of a Nurse, to the Isolation Hospital. The House or room is disinfected as soon after the removal as possible by your Inspector. In common with many other Authorities we have had a considerable number of cases of Diphtheria to deal with, most of the cases being proved to have contracted the disease by contagion from known diseased persons, but in other cases no such infection could be proved. Most of the cases came from the Northern portion of the Town where the dwelling houses are good and new, the water supply and drainage being also good. I went into the Milk supply but found there where 5 dairies distributing milk in this district as well as throughout the rest of the Town where there were no cases. I observed what I have often observed before in similar outbreaks, that there is a previous history of sore throat in a family not sufficiently alarming to demand Medical advice—this person recovers—then another child sickens and a doctor is sent for and Diphtheria is found to exist.

For some years past for a reason unknown to me there has been observed a recurrence of outbreak of Scarlatina and Diphtheria in the Northern portion of the Town, and often amongst the children attending St. Paul's Schools, the School premises have been thoroughly over-hauled and disinfected, and the drains examined without result, by Mr. Adams.

Last year I had an outbreak of Typhoid Fever produced by what is now known as a "Carrier case in the Rural District." By a carrier case is meant a person not ill but bearing the germs of disease about his person. An article in the British Medical Journal suggests the skin acting as a carrier in Eczematous cases; I have looked for but failed to find any such case here, indeed the age of the children would indicate some recent source of infection, as they were for the most part under 7 years of age. I propose advising the Sanitary Authority not to permit the re-opening of St. Paul's Infant School for the present.

These, Gentlemen, are some of the more important Sanitary matters which have engaged your attention and the attention of your Officers during the past year. I have to thank Mr. Adams for his ready aid and prompt action in dealing with many small matters which did not come before you.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. BRISCOE, B.A., M.D.

